

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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S E C R E T USNATO 5274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: REVISED NATO AND PACT GROUND FORCE TOTALS

REF: A. STATE 212094 B. MBFR VIENNA 249

1. MISSION AND USDELMC APPRECIATE HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS IN REFTELS FOR SPEEDING AGREEMENT ON PACT AND NATO GROUND FORCE TOTALS FOR ALLIED USE IN MBFR.

2. WITH RESPECT TO MC-224 PROCESS, USDELMC PRESSED HARD TO ADVANCE DATE OF CONFERENCE, BUT FRG AND ITALIAN OBJECTIONS FRUSTRATED THIS EFFORT. NOW, WITH CONFERENCE SET TO MEET SEPTEMBER 30, WE UNDERSTAND UK ONLY RECENTLY CIRCULATED ITS DRAFT MCM. IMS RECEIVED IT SEPTEMBER 25. THIS MEANS THAT SOME MC-224 EXPERTS MAY BE TAKING FIRST LOOK AT FORMAT AND SUBSTANTIATING DATA. NORMALLY, SUCH CONFERENCE DOES NOT PRODUCE A FINAL DOCUMENT OR APPROVE IT. IMS COMPLIES A DRAFT ON BASIS OF CONFERENCE
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WORK AND FOR PURELY TYPOGRAPHIC REASONS THIS TAKES SEVERAL DAYS. IMS THEN CIRCULATES TO CAPITALS DRAFT IMSWM WITH REQUEST FOR APPROVAL IN TIME FOR A DATE SET ON MC AGENDA. IN PAST, REVIEW IN CAPITALS HAS FLUSHED OUT ERRORS IN IMSWM. MILITARY

COMMITTEE APPROVAL ON BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS IS FINAL STEP IN PROCESS OF ACHIEVING "NATO AGREED" FIGURES.

3. IN LINE WITH PARA 2 REF A, USDELMC SUGGESTED TO IMS ON STAFF LEVEL THAT MC-224 TRY TO GET EARLY AGREEMENT ON AGGREGATE FIGURES (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PACT AND SOVIET OVERALL GROUND FORCE TOTALS) AND THEN REQUEST IMS TO ISSUE THESE TO ALLIES FOR URGENT OUT OF COMMITTEE AGREEMENT.

THIS MIGHT ACHIEVE NATO AGREEMENT ON AGGREGATES A FEW WEEKS EARLIER THAN AGREEMENT ON COMPLETE MCM. IMS STAFF CONSIDER THIS FEASIBLE IF MC 224 CONFERENCE REQUESTS IT. USDEL MC WILL ALSO SEEK EARLY DATE ON MC AGENDA FOR MCM APPROVAL, WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE FOUR WEEKS AFTER IMSWM IS ISSUED.

4. AS FOR SPC ACTION DISCUSSED PARAS 4 AND 5, REF B, NOT ONE BUT A NUMBER OF NATO COUNTRIES (FRG, BELGIUM, AND NETHERLANDS, AS REPORTED USNATO 4484) OBJECT TO OFFICIALLY RELEASING DATA TO AD HOC GROUP BEFORE DATA ARE NATO AGREED. MOREOVER, SPC HAS NOT ENDORSED FOR MBFR PURPOSES U.S., UK, FRG AGREED ESTIMATES OF PACT STRENGTH. WG HAS SIMPLY REPORTED THESE TO SPC WITH SOVERING NOTE IN AC/276-D(74)6.

ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. REPS TO MC 224 PROPOSE AT OUTSET THAT CONFERENCE CONSIDER AGGREGATE TOTALS AS FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS. MISSION WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS PARA 2, REF A IN SPC AND WG AND WILL PRESS FOR EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF DATA ON NATO FORCES AS AUTHORIZED REF A.

6. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 9 REF B, U.S. MISSION AND CHAIRMAN SUBGROUP ON DATA SUPPORT ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR UK CONTENTION THAT NEW ALLIED TOTAL FOR NATO FORCES IN NGA MIGHT BE LOWER THAN THE ACTUAL PRESENT TOTAL. UK WG REP (GEHRATY) TOLD MISSION OFFICER LONDON CONCERN DERIVES FROM SLIGHT DROP IN UK FORCES AS RESULT OF RECRUITING PROBLEMS AND INFERENCE THAT SOME OTHER ALLIES MIGHT FACE SMILAR PROBLEMS. GEHRATY INDICATED LONDON WAS CONCERNED THAT BY PROVIDING EAST WITH FIGURES ON NATO FORCES HIGHER THAN THOSE THAT MIGHT PREVAIL
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AT TIME OF AGREEMENT, ALLIES WOULD POINT TOWARD REDUCTIONS IN NATO FORCES HIGHER THAN NATO MIGHT WANT TO TAKE-IF EAST SEIZES ON HIGH FFIGURES FOR CALCULATING NATO PERCENTAGE CUTS.

7. THIS CABLE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH USDELMC. MCAULIFFE

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